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***ERIOPHORUM CALLITRIX***  
**SHEATHED COTTON-GRASS**

Sheathed Cotton-grass is a grass-like perennial with clusters of erect stems that are 8-25 cm high, forming small, solitary and compact tufts. The stiff leaves are 1-2 mm wide and grouped near the base. The upper leaves have reduced blades and broad sheaths that surround the stem. Flowers are borne in a solitary head-like spikelet that resembles a ball of cotton and is 15-25 mm high. Each flower consists of a lance-shaped, greenish black scale and numerous long, shining, white bristles at the base of the ovary. The lowest scale has a middle rib that extends nearly to the margin. The seeds are ca. 2 mm long, and mature bristles are ca. 2 cm long. Flowering in August.

The combination of the solitary spikelet and the tufted, non-stoloniferous habit separate this species from all other *ERIOPHORUM* in our area.